

Photo by Judith Tackett

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE TENNESSEE STATE PLAN TO END *Homelessness*

Created by Tennessee Interagency Council on Homelessness
SUMMER 2016



BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR
STATE OF TENNESSEE

June 7, 2016

Fellow Tennesseans:

The Tennessee Interagency Council on Homelessness is charged with coordinating the State's efforts to effectively address the challenge of ending homelessness in Tennessee. On May 25, 2016, the Council—which includes representation of numerous state and local agencies and providers in the community—adopted the State Plan to End Homelessness.

In 2015, an estimated 9,123 individuals were identified as homeless in Tennessee. While the state has made progress in reducing this number, the rate of homelessness remains too high.

The Plan will increase collaboration, improve access to housing and healthcare, and increase the economic security and education of Tennessee's citizens, while ensuring that state and local resources are utilized effectively and responsibly. Specifically, the Plan sets out key measures of success and 43 action steps to end veteran and chronic homelessness, homelessness for families with children and youth, and all other categories of homelessness.

The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is spearheading this effort to develop, enhance, and coordinate the efforts and strategies to more effectively address the challenges of homelessness in Tennessee. The Council recognizes that decisions are often best made at the local level and hopes the sharing of information and best practices will leverage the successes of communities throughout the state.

I look forward to receiving regular updates from the Council regarding the progress towards achieving the goal of eliminating homelessness in our state.

I thank the Council for serving as a model of how different departments and agencies of government can unite and work with other important stakeholders to tackle a common goal. The Council's efforts will help make Tennessee a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Haslam", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Governor Bill Haslam

VISION AND GOALS

The long-term vision of Tennessee's Interagency Council on Homelessness is to effectively end and prevent homelessness in the State of Tennessee. Through the coordination of services and housing at the state and local levels, we believe we can bring an end to homelessness.

In concert with *Opening Doors*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness' (USICH) plan to end homelessness, we have created a statewide plan to end homelessness.

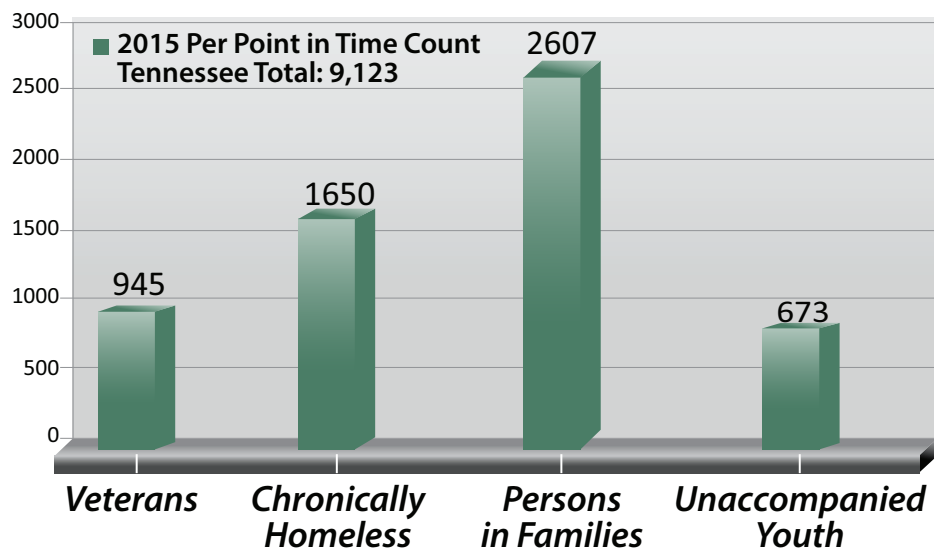
The Tennessee State Plan to End Homelessness has specified the following goals:

- **To end veteran and chronic homelessness by the end of 2017**
- **To end homelessness for families with children and youth by the end of 2020**
- **To end all other homelessness by the end of 2025**

According to USICH, "An end to homelessness means that every community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience."

The Plan is organized around five main themes and the ten objectives of Opening Doors. It includes Tennessee's measures of success for the first year of plan implementation. It is the hope of the Council that the Plan will be used as a road map for all Tennesseans interested in preventing and ending homelessness. The Plan will be updated annually to ensure progress towards our goals.

Tennessee Homeless Subgroup Totals



PLAN OVERVIEW



Increase Leadership, Collaboration, and Civic Engagement

Objective 1 Provide and promote collaborative leadership at all levels of government and across all sectors to inspire and energize Tennesseans to commit to preventing and ending homelessness.

- At least three communities will have met USICH's criteria for ending homelessness for either veteran or chronic homelessness by June 2017.
- Tennessee's Plan to End Homelessness will be communicated within state government and to Tennessee communities by November 2016.
- The Homeless Data Repository will be established and include data contributed from at least three (3) local homeless service systems (Continua of Care/CoCs) by June 2017.

Objective 2 Strengthen the capacity of public and private organizations by increasing knowledge about collaboration, homelessness, and successful interventions to prevent and end homelessness.

- Statewide quarterly meeting of regional homeless service provider systems (CoCs) will be facilitated by Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) and Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) by September 2016.
- A statewide communications network of homeless service providers and advocates as well as state and local government stakeholders including statewide virtual meetings and regional face-to-face meetings addressing homelessness challenges and solutions will have been established and met for the first time by December 2016.



Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

Objective 3 Provide affordable housing to people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness

- Move and track retention rate of at least 700 homeless veterans and/or chronically homeless individuals into permanent housing between July 2016 and June 2017.
- Identify at least one interdepartmental project for housing or housing services by July 2017.

Objective 4 Provide permanent supportive housing to prevent and end chronic homelessness.

- Complete two education events promoting best practices of supportive housing models for different populations by July 2017.



Increase Economic Security

Objective 5 Improve access to education and increase meaningful and sustainable employment for people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.

- By the end of December 2017, expand current number of Individual Placements and Supports (IPS) employment service sites by two (2) and serve an additional 200 people. Both sites will be trained to serve homeless individuals.

Objective 6 Improve access to mainstream programs and services to reduce people's financial vulnerability to homelessness.

- At least 300 individuals will be assisted in applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) through the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) during FY17 (July 2016 – June 2017).



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Improve Health and Stability

Objective 7 Integrate primary and behavioral health care services with homeless assistance programs and housing to reduce people's vulnerability to and the impacts of homelessness.

- At least 50% of veterans and chronically homeless enrolled in Continuum of Care (CoC) or Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals grant program in FY17 will be linked to primary health care providers such as Health Home, Patient Centered Medical Home, or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

Objective 8 Advance health and housing stability for unaccompanied youth/young adults (18-24) experiencing homelessness and transition-age youth leaving a stable environment or aging out of systems such as foster care and juvenile justice.

- Build a predictor of homelessness report to help identify youth with risk factors for homelessness by July 2017.

Objective 9 Advance health and housing stability for people experiencing homelessness who have frequent contact with hospitals and criminal justice.

- A plan will be developed by July 2017 to implement a statewide housing needs assessment that identifies groups at greatest risk for homelessness.
- By July 2017, two communities will have initiated the development of a system linking homeless individuals who have frequent contact with hospitals and the criminal justice system to housing and support services.



Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System

Objective 10 Transform homeless services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing.

- A Coordinated Entry System that links homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness to needed resources in their community will be established in all Regional Homeless Service Networks (CoCs) by December 2016.

Photo by Tasha A.F. Lemley



Tennessee
State Government

For more information, contact the Office of Housing and Homeless Services
Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Ph: 615-532-4651 | Email: End.Homelessness@tn.gov
Or visit the website: tn.gov/EndHomelessness



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